

## *Time Plays Music*

by Percival

At the beginning of the composition *Civilization – a Purgatory*, a concrete music happening performed by Percival, you can hear distorted Swedish voices talking about music, Pythagoras, and his idea of the harmony of the spheres. The answer to that harmony is of course not the following music that describes the purgatory that our civilization has created within and without the human beings. But it is not just a description. The music composed by the author and composer Percival is the purgatory itself. Or at least an interpretation of this purgatory in accordance with his experience. It is his first composition and it was at that time (1965) the only way he could express the situation of a creative outsider in a conservative environment full of life-threatening devices. The composition ends with words taken from the long epic poem *Vents* (Winds) by the French poet Saint-John Perse. "And the citizens in the town down below were surprised by the scream, the piercing scream of the god."

*Meditation* is a composition for metallophone and sea sounds. It might be compared to the minimalistic music that was in its initial stage when this piece was created.

*Junction at Sunrise* is a text-sound-composition. The text can be read in Percival's book *Time Plays*, published in 1999 and 2000 by Art Distribution, Askrikegatan 13, SE-115 57 Stockholm. – The elements have always been a source of inspiration to Percival, and of course also to a poet like Saint-John Perse, who inspired Percival's early writings. – In *Junction at Sunrise* you can hear the wind, electronic sounds, Tibetan cymbals, voices, and a flute from Bolivia played by the composer. The title *Junction at Sunrise* is in a sense inspired by James Joyce's book *Finnegans Wake*, that in a mixed multilingual way shapes the history of humanity and its great cycles. After the time of civilization – the funeral – a new time of wholeness is born. The junction is seen as a meeting-place at dawn, and the flutes of the composition *At Daybreak* are "calling all downs to dayne" (Joyce). The night of corruption has ended and the Day begins again. The flutes are played by the composer and two young musicians at the studio Art Distribution.

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Running time: 46:28.

1. *Civilization – a Purgatory* (17:16) – Concrete music. Primitive instruments played by Percival. Technical realization: Anders Lind, Studio Decibel.

2. *Meditation* (16:32) – Metallophone: Percival. Technical realization – including sea sounds – Anders Lind, Studio Decibel.

3. *Junction at Sunrise* (8:56) – Voice: Percival. The choir part: Percival and two music friends. Tibetan cymbals and Bolivian flute played by Percival. Electronic sounds produced at EMS, Stockholm. Technical realization: Miklós Maros, EMS (Electroacoustic Music in Sweden).

4. *At Daybreak* (3:33) – A composition for three flutes and bird song. Flutes: Percival and two young Art Distribution musicians, Nadia and Leila. Realized at Art Distribution's studio.

CD box front-photo (the composer at Sion, Switzerland, 1991) © Art Distribution, Stockholm, Sweden. Back-photo (sunrise at Tulum, Mexico, 1995) © Percival.

First performance of the pieces mentioned above: The Swedish Music Radio (P2). Music and texts (including information) © Percival and Art Distribution, Askrikegatan 13, SE-115 57, Stockholm, Sweden. Phone +46-8-6615433, [www.artdistribution.se](http://www.artdistribution.se)

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*NOTE*

Percival (first name and surname: no pseudonym), who lives in Stockholm, Sweden, is a writer, artist, and composer. He has exhibited his paintings and published books in Swedish and in English. His music and some of his plays have been performed in Stockholm and elsewhere. Information about his work: [www.artdistribution.se](http://www.artdistribution.se)

